

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 997

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Buddy's Bar-b-q on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary businesses that, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable establishment is Buddy's Bar-b-q, an iconic, third-generation, family-owned Tennessee restaurant, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, Buddy's Bar-b-q was founded in Knoxville in 1972 by Carcel "Buddy" Smothers and his wife, LaMuriel Smothers; and

WHEREAS, soon after opening its doors, Buddy's Bar-b-q became a popular gathering place, serving up delicious and always-fresh, home-style food at a real value with good old Southern hospitality; and

WHEREAS, LaMuriel Smothers's original recipes are still on the menu today, and Buddy's Bar-b-q has continued to serve fresh barbecue, hickory-smoked on site daily for fifty years; and

WHEREAS, soon after opening its doors in 1972, the original Buddy's Bar-b-q restaurant became known as the place to hear bluegrass bands like Ricky Skaggs and the Knoxville Grass on Friday nights; and

WHEREAS, Buddy's Bar-b-q drew the attention of singer Dinah Shore, who added Buddy's trademark hush puppies to her cookbook; and

WHEREAS, local politicians wanted Buddy's Bar-b-q for their rallies, and Buddy Smothers delivered it himself; from there, the catering business took off; and

WHEREAS, word spread from the 1982 World's Fair, where Buddy's Bar-b-q operated two restaurants and a small eatery in the pavilion; soon afterward, countless barbeque fans began to recognize Buddy's Bar-b-q as a true Tennessee barbecue tradition, and Buddy Smothers was honored as Restaurateur of the Year and elected President of the Tennessee Restaurant Association; and

WHEREAS, Buddy's Bar-b-q is also known for its charitable service, giving back to the community in a variety of ways, including sponsoring Buddy's Race for the Cure, which began after Buddy Smothers died of cancer in 1992, and supporting Alzheimer's Tennessee in honor of LaMuriel Smothers, who resides in assisted living; and

WHEREAS, Buddy's Bar-b-q continues its support of the communities it serves by hosting Mission Mondays and providing first responders with discounts each day; additionally, the restaurant is a generous supporter of local schools and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, today, Buddy's Bar-b-q is still managed by the original family, as Chief Executive Officer Mark Lemoncelli is the husband of the founders' granddaughter, Jaime Smothers; and

WHEREAS, Buddy's Bar-b-q honors the legacy of Buddy and LaMuriel Smothers by operating with the original philosophy of treating customers as if they are guests in their own home; and

WHEREAS, Buddy's Bar-b-q continues its remarkable growth with the franchisee group consisting of Darik and Deanne Dawes, David and Shelly Dawes, Ken and Mary Hope Maples, Allen and Cyndi Newton, and Greg and Kim Adkins, all Tennessee natives, along with the FASCO/Kenjo Markets group, which is also based in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, today, there are nineteen Buddy's Bar-b-q locations spread across Tennessee, including Athens, Bristol, Cleveland, Clinton, East Ridge, Hixson, Knoxville, Lenoir City, Maryville, Morristown, Oak Ridge, Powell, and Sevierville; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Buddy's Bar-b-q have operated their award-winning restaurant with expertise and integrity for fifty years, and they are wholly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor the owners and employees of Buddy's Bar-b-q for their tireless dedication to customer service and the preparation of original home-style meals, commend their charitable service to their community, congratulate them on the restaurant's fiftieth anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.